

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, April 15. 1708.

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**I**N my arguing against the Suspensions we have hastily entertain'd of our Brethren in *Scotland* joining with the Pretender, I undertook to give you some Hints, who were indeed most likely to forward that Attempt, and from what Principles; and really this is naturally deduced from their own Management; and in order to enter a little on the Search, let us observe, that in the Multitude of mad Projects offer'd to the World of late by this weak and despicable Party among us, call'd *High-Flyers*, almost every thing has given us Hints of this Design: Was it not a merry Thought to reflect, how nicely they were wheedling us lately about uniting the *Episcopal Clergy* in *Scotland* with the Church of *England*? I call these People despicable, be-

cause they appear desperate; and when an Enemy is once made desperate, he is ready despicable; if they were not desperate, they would never fly to such scandalous Shifts as these, which discover so much the Nakedness of their Party, and the Weakness of their Cause.

To join *Scotts Bishops* and the *English*? Now besides a Question I put in a late Review to be answer'd by the *Rehearsal*, if he thought fit, and which I dare say, he knows better than to meddle farther with; methinks it would be very proper to examine, whether this is not one of the grossest affronts that he could offer to the *English Clergy*, if he means joining them to the present Body of the Clergy Establish'd since the Revolution: To join them with a Body of

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*Non-Jurant, Jacobite, Scots Bishops*; indeed if he means by the Church of England, the dispossest'd *Jacobite* Clergy, as he must do, if he acts according to his own profess'd Principles, and as by his many Cavils since, it appears he does, then let them unite with all our Hearts; I wish, they and all their Party were fairly united, and would shew their Faces for their scoundrel Cause; that they would draw out and let us see them, and fairly make a Day of it—They would do us much less Harm in the Field than in their underhand Machinations, and in the Arts and Tricks which they use slyly to amuse and make uneasy the People.

And to shew a little the Temper, and give you a Sketch of the Character of these *Scots Episcopal* Gentlemen, that he would have join'd to our Church. Shall I tell you a short Story, if Mr. *Rehearsal* can clear them of it, let him go about it as soon as possible.

The 14th of January last, was a Solemn Fast appointed by Authority; the Introduction to the Proclamation enjoying this Fast is very Emphatical, and full of Religious Motives to it. We having a deep Sense of the Over-ruling Providence of GOD, by whose Infinite Wisdom all Things are Directed and Order'd; and taking into our most serious Consideration the Just and Necessary War against the French King, wherein We, with several other Princes and States of Europe are Engaged, upon the Success whereof the Common Safety and Wellfare of Our Kingdoms, and the Liberties of Europe, do (under GOD) wholly depend; Have out of Our Religious Disposition, Ordained, That a General and Publick Fast shall be Observ'd throughout Our whole Kingdom of Great Britain. The Intent and Design of it is as remarkably serious. That so both We and Our People may Humble Our selves before Almighty GOD, in order to obtain Pardon for our Sins, and may, in most Devout and Solemn Manner, send up our Prayers and Supplications to the Divine Majesty, for Averting those heavy Judgments which our manifold Sins and Provocations have most justly deserv'd, and Imploring His Blessing and Assistance on the Arms of Us and Our Allies, and Our and Their Forces, both by Sea and Land, and for Restoring and Perpetuating Peace, Safety, and Prosperity, to Us and

Our Kingdoms, and the Nations and States in Alliance with Us. The Earnestness, wherewith Her Majesty enjoys this Fast, is very copiously contain'd in the last Paragraph of the said Proclamation. Thus, And we strictly Charge and Command, That the said Publick Fast be reverently and decently observ'd by all Our Loving Subjects, within our said Kingdom of Great Britain, on the said Fourteenth Day of January next, as they tender the Favour of Almighty GOD, and would avoid his Wrath and Indignation, and upon Pain of such Punishment as We may justly inflict on all such as contemn or neglect the Performance of so Religious a Duty.

Now pray, Gentlemen, let us examine a little, how many of the *Scots Bishops* that the *Rehearsal* pretends to have united with the *English* Clergy, how many of the persecuted Clergy that are turn'd out of their Livings, and oppress'd for Conscience Sake, how many of these kept this Fast? —Should your Charity be disposed among the *Scots* Clergy who are persecuted for meer Conscience, and that conform to the Government, tho' they cannot to the Church; in short were it to be disposed to none, but such as do not on all Occasions declare themselves Enemies to the Government, and are *Dissenters* in Politicks as well as Religion; I say, it would either make that FEW very rich, or must be return'd to you again for Want of Objects.

In short, to testify this Matter more plainly, let me communicate to you a Letter which I have had by me sometime, and which I have so often shewn in Conversation, that I have Witnesses enough of its being an Original, and the Author of it also well known; It shall make but small Comments on such Things as these, they are Matters of Fact, any Body may draw Consequences from them.

Edinburgh, Jan. 22.

S. I R,

708.

I Could not refrain to advertise you of the following Particulars, which I doubt not you will improve for the publick Advantage; It is known to you, that her Majesty by Proclamation having appointed a solemn Fast to be observ'd throughout Britain, on the 14th of January; the Privy-Council here conform to the  
QUEEN'S



QUEEN's Command, appointed it accordingly in those Parts. My Lord Provost concluding it to be his Duty to see it Religiously observed according to the Injunction of the Government, appointed certain proper Officers of each Division to walk round the City, and see that the QUEEN's Command was obey'd, and to prevent any Neglect of the due Observance of the Day; these among other Enquiries were to observe, if the Dissenters at their Meeting-Houses observ'd the Fast; upon the Return and Report of the said Officers it appear'd, that of all the Episcopal Meeting-Houses in this City not One had any Preaching, or were so much as open'd upon this Occasion, except Mr. Walker an Episcopal Minister, who very freely observ'd the Day—The Rest were all shut up—There were some Observations made, that both at Leith and here, the other Party made their publick Appearance at the Taverns and Publick-Houses, of which some Notice has also been taken, in order to prosecute the said Houses by Law—Thus these Gentlemen testify'd, that to pray for the Success of her Majesty's Arms, is inconsistent with their Principles; and what they have no

Inclination to do, tho' this is but the least Part of their Aversion, which they discover on all Occasions, both to her Majesty's Person and Government.

This confirms what I am upon exactly; and here you may see, who are for French Invaders and Popish Pretenders; and who not; and no Question it has been the Plot of this Party to cast the Jealousie off from themselves on the Presbyterian, because they oppos'd the Union—And here appears, what I noted before, of the Difference between DISSATISFACTION and DISAFFECTION; this may make Men uneasy, but that employs them to oppose; these may complain, but 'tis those contrive; Dissatisfaction aims at Satisfaction, but Disaffection pushes at Foundations; the Presbyterians may seek Redress and Ease in Scruples about the Union, but the Jacobites are a People, whose Interest is inconsistent with the Union, and by Consequence aim at its Destruction; this, I think, needs no more Comment, but I may perhaps touch at the Characters of each hereafter.

## MISCELLANEA.

WHO can think of the Prince of Wales, as they call him, and his Expedition against this Kingdom, and especially of his going back again, without looking his Enemies in the Face, without thinking a little of Mr. Rebearfal's tender-hearted Prince Rehoboam? Who, when his Father's Subjects rejected him, says the Rebearfal, had not the Heart to compel them to their Duty by Force—Not but that the Rebearfal bel... Rehoboam too, for he would have gone up against them, but GOD Almighty forbid him peremptorily with this Answer,

*Isr not a Foot, thy new rais'd Troops disband,  
Said the Almighty Voice, 'tis my Command.*

I know, this makes the Rebearfal call him Fool too, because he durst not go against

them in spite of Heaven; he is a Fool of a Tyrant, that can't fight his Rebels without consulting Heaven; Tyrants never consult Heaven, if they did, they would never be Tyrants; for the Eternal Law is a Law of Liberty, but Tyrants act by the Nature of the Thing against Heaven, and 'tis the Height of Folly to ask Advice of Heaven in a Case directly against him.

And now our tender-hearted Prince, our young Rehoboam, who was coming to chastise us with Scorpions, can be no Tyrant, for he has shewn himself too tender-hearted to fight, and therefore Rehoboam like, he is gone Home again, in order to satisfy himself, knowing, or at least if he would consult Heaven, he might know, that as to the Revolution and the Defection of his Fathers Subjects, as it was said by the Oracle of



of Old, so it is spoken from Heaven at this Time, *The thing is of me.*

It is a very odd Thing, that at this Time of Day Mr. *Rehearsal* should tell us, that correcting a People with Scorpions does not denote a Tyrant; and what is the Meaning of this, but to prepare us for French Power, which was invading us, that it might not seem strange to us; just as Sir *Rich. Buckley*, in Defence of the new Prophets, has advanced a new Notion, *Viz. That it is not essential to a true Prophet, that what he prophesies should come to pass*; this appears plainly to be a Preparatory to the People to continue their Opinion of that new, tho' strange Notion, tho' they should, as no doubt they will, suffer n Disappointment in their expected, predicted Wonders. In like manner it cannot but be a Preparatory to us to embrace French Tyrants and a usurping Pretender; to insinuate, that chastising the People with Scorpions, as Rehoboam threatened his Subjects, is not Tyranny; *that is in Part*, that a Prince may reject the humble Addresses of his People, for the Preservation of their just Rights; may make illegal Exactions, and lay on exorbitant Punishments, *for all this was Rehoboam's Case*, and yet not be guilty of Tyranny, and consequently not be to be resisted.

Whether these are some of the horrid Absurdities and ridiculous Notions, for which the Pretended Esq; *Bickerstaff* has predicted, that the *Rehearsal* shall hang himself, or have it done for him, I do not further examine—Let him make that out as he thinks fit: But really if any Man of Sense had put upon the World so many absurd and contradicting Assertions, which when challenged too, he could no way make good, I think, he ought to hang himself as an Author, *i. e.* for ever hold his Tongue—And that this may be in every Body's Power to make good to him, I repeat but a few of them, which he remembers well enough: such as;

1. That we can have no Union to make us happy but a Union of Principles.
2. That *England* had done better, if she had adher'd to Passive-Obedience.
3. That People may on no Terms resist a Lawful Prince, his Title being deriv'd

from *Divino* from Heaven; and that (by Consequence) the Revolution was Rebellion, and the QUEEN an Usurper.

4. That GOD would not let the *Israelites* go out of *Aegypt* without *Pharaoh's* Consent:
5. That when the *Israelites* went, they knew nothing but that they should come back again in three Days, tho' 'tis known, they took *Moses's* Bones with them to bury in *Canaan*.
6. That *Rehoboam*; tho' he was for chastising his People with Scorpions, was no Tyrant.
7. That he was a tender-hearted Fool, and durst not fight his Rebels, tho' the Scripture says he prepared for it, and was forbid from Heaven.

*Gum muſtis alijs quæ nunc præſcribere longum eſt.*

Let any Man see; whether Mr. *Bickerstaff* need be a Conjuror to predict, that such a Man would hang himself; for any Man ought much rather to hang himself, *speaking in the common Stile*, than be guilty of putting such Absurdities and Fallacies upon the World.

#### ADVERTISEMENT.

THE famous GOUT ANTIDOTE, that by Bathing only has lately cured so many Persons afflicted with the most violent Raging Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism, restoring them to Compleat and perfect Ease to a miracle, (as will be attested at Mr. Allcrafts, one of the Places of Sale) and that hath been experienc'd by thousands who have been cured by it, to be the only Remedy capable to give present Relief in the utmost Extremity, or almost distracting Torturing Pains of the Gout and Rheumatism, when all other means have been used in vain: It most infallibly takes away all manner of Pain in less than half an Hours time to admiration; and not only takes off a Fit for the present, but also prevents it returning again, and most certainly keeps the Gout from the Stomach. Is Sold only at Mr. Allcraft's a Toy-Shop, at the Blue-Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, and at Mr. Brook's, Stationery at the Ship near the May-Pole in the Strand, at 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions.